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FLOOR DEBATE

April 2, 2004            LB 1090, 1093

for myself. I was a very small part of this debate. Other people did much more. But I listened along with others. I asked questions when I had them. But we're actually plowing new ground. The work that you do as a legislator doesn't always show up in tangible form. That doesn't mean that you weren't working. That doesn't mean that you were doing nothing. We evaluated many options. We've decided, at least for the moment, not to pursue them. But I'm not going to let anybody--I don't know about the rest of you--I'm not letting anybody put me in a box and stamp it "do-nothing," as if it was some kind of wasted or failed week. I hope all this talk about the need to do something carries over into LB 1093. Senator Chambers suggested on General File what we ought to do. It's the most sensible suggestion I've heard in the whole debate. We'll find out on LB 1093 who's really serious about doing something. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Maxwell. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: I'm going to not use this opportunity to speak. I'll return my time to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I wanted to emphasize the seriousness of this bill. And I hope those of you that are frustrated this morning will realize the seriousness of LB 1090--it's on page 15--of the many things that it does. And it is the thing that balances our budget for this next year without raising taxes. So it's very, very critical. But beyond that, I want to look at this positively today. Rather than saying "doing nothing," I think we're setting the stage, we're framing the issue that we're going to have this next special session, perhaps, and for sure next year. One of the reasons we're here, we don't have a consensus. And it's been frustrating to me to some degree also, but we do not have a consensus, and we're not there yet, and that's fine. But it does...I think we need to emphasize the seriousness of our situation when we do it. Because I also would say that doing something halfway in this next year, year and a half, may be worse than doing nothing, and I am concerned about that. And I